

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- Five cases of desertion and two arrests on grounds of suspected espionage in the ranks of the paramilitary units in Berlin in the course of the last three weeks have given rise to stringent countermeasures by the Soviet control element in the Central Komendatura. Whereas, in the opinion of ranking police officers directly concerned with the training of paramilitary police personnel in Berlin, none of the above cases can be considered evidence of a serious deterioration in morale foreshadowing further desertions on an increasing scale, the Soviets have made no efforts to conceal their deep concern with a situation they regard as symptomatic of a striking failure of proper political indoctrination of recent inductees. In one specific case the deserter was a police veteran, a non-commissioned officer who had been demoted on grounds of loose living. Rather than suffer the humiliation of facing his erstwhile subordinates, he decided to desert. In all other instances the deserters were raw recruits.
- The officer on Colonel Zhukov's staff primarily concerned with matters of discipline and political indoctrination in the Berlin paramilitary police is Lt. Colonel Masalov, who is assisted by Captains Vlasinkov and Abramov. They operate an informant net against the paramilitary units. In order to cope with indications of political slackness and lack of military discipline, Masalov has directed the officer in charge of Abteilung Bereitschaften to compile a list of personnel lacking the necessary police qualifications. This information is to be made available to him directly so that the necessary dismissals can be ordered by the Central Komendatura, if necessary, overriding the objections of the personnel section of the Polizeipräsidium. This section, being hard put to it to find replacements for paramilitary service, has shown a marked disinclination to order any dismissals other than in cases of absolute necessity.
- The Polit-Kultur officials have been charged with taking

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they attribute to a systematic campaign of subversion launched by the SPD Ostbüro. It is they who will select the personnel to be recommended for dismissal. In order to obtain the requisite information, Masalov has ordered them to recruit informants within the ranks of the paramilitary units. It will be their primary duty to ferret out individuals who, by their constant complaints, affect the morale of their comrades. Included among the personnel recommended for elimination will also be those who are psychologically unable to submit to strict military discipline. To support the measures taken by the command and the Polit-Kultur element, an operative of AK-5 (the political police section of the Berlin Polizeipräsidentium) has been assigned to Abteilung Bereitschaften. He will operate under cover and advise a selected number of Polit-Kultur officers on the organization of their informant nets.

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Comment: The above-related incidents, although none too significant in themselves, illustrate the brittleness of the foundation on which the discipline and the basic loyalties of the paramilitary police rest, at least in Berlin. The never ceasing purges and transfers that have beset the paramilitary police units in Berlin since their inception have seriously affected the training program under which they are scheduled to be readied for tactical assignments by the end of this year. This state of affairs is unlikely to change until the question of jurisdictional subordination of the Berlin Bereitschaften has finally been settled. The special status of these units directly under the Polizeipräsident of Berlin and the Central Komendatura has afforded the Soviet officials concerned an opportunity continuously to interfere in the German management of paramilitary affairs. Pre-occupation with desertions at the expense of much more pressing organizational and logistic problems is threatening to undermine the military effectiveness of the paramilitary police to a point at which dissolution and basic reorganization of the units involved might be necessary.

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